

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 26, 2004

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hunter and Ranking Member Skelton:

We are writing to request your support for an authorization of a minimum of 15 additional H-60 variant helicopters for Fiscal Year 2005. With the termination of the RAH-66 Comanche, this additional production of H-60s will allow hundreds of small companies to remain competitive in both the national and international marketplace.

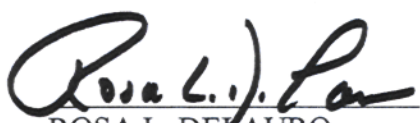
The Bush Administration's Defense budget, as amended by the Army due to the cancellation of Comanche, contains funding for 27 UH-60L Black Hawks, 5 UH-60M remanufactured Black Hawks, 15 MH-60S Seahawks, and 8 MH-60Rs for a total of 55 aircraft. We respectfully request an additional procurement of 15 H-60 variants.

We recognize the financial challenges that your Committee will face this year given the current budget climate and the war in Iraq. However there are valid requirements for additional aircraft above the 55 provided for in the budget. For instance:

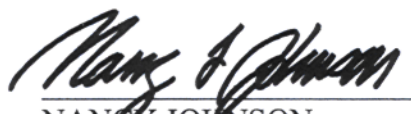
- Even with the addition of 19 H-60 variant helicopters in the amended budget, the Army still has a shortfall of at least 15 aircraft lost in both Iraq and Afghanistan due to combat.
- The revised Army Aviation Modernization Plan still leaves the Army National Guard with a shortfall of 113 aircraft. The National Guard's number one unfunded requirement is for 15 additional UH-60 variants to make up for this shortfall.

As you know, the H-60 helicopter is of vital importance to our national defense requirements. Therefore, appreciating the budgetary climate in which you must operate, we strongly urge your support for an additional 15 H-60 variant helicopters in this year's Defense Authorization bill. Thank you for your continued assistance and support.


Sincerely,



ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress


JOHN LARSON
Member of Congress



NANCY JOHNSON
Member of Congress


MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

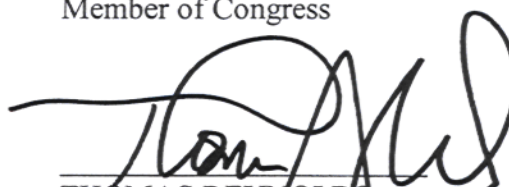

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Member of Congress



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JOHN OLVER
Member of Congress

Chairman Lewis and Mr. Murtha
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PETER KING
Member of Congress



PHIL ENGLISH
Member of Congress